

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 056057
ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 ACDA-07 /080 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C:AARENALES:GJB
APPROVED BY P:PCHABIB
AF/C:TRBUCHANAN
EUR/NE:JJCROWLEY (INFO)
-----140312Z 018955 /67
O 140258Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 056057

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CG, AO

SUBJECT: BORDER ATTACK ON ZAIRE

REF: STATE 055229 (NOTAL)

DELIVER OPENING OF BUSINESS MARCH 14

1. REQUEST YOU FOLLOW-UP REFTEL BY INFORMING APPROPRIATELY
HIGH LEVEL BELGIAN OFFICIAL THAT WE ARE PLANNING TO BE
RESPONSIVE TO ZAIRE'S REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE.
INITIALLY, WE WILL SOON BE SENDING A C-141 TO KINSHASA
WITH CLOTHING, PARACHUTES, FUEL BLADDERS, MEDICAL SUPPLIES,
RADIOS AND BATTERIES AND POSSIBLY SPARE PARTS FOR C-130'S.

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2. YOU SHOULD ALSO CONVEY TO BELGIANS THAT:

A) WE BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO
AT LEAST PART OF MOBUTU'S REQUEST FOR AID. FOR OUR OWN
PLANNING PURPOSES, WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW--IF POSSIBLE
ON MARCH 14-- WHETHER AND HOW BELGIANS PLAN TO RESPOND.

(FYI ONLY: WE WILL NOT MOVE C-141 UNTIL WE KNOW BELGIAN AND FRENCH PLANS. WE CABLING PARIS SEPARATELY END FYI).

B) OUR DECISION IS BASED ON EVIDENCE THAT THE INCURSION FROM ANGOLA IS PROBABLY MORE THAN JUST RETALIATORY. WE ARE DISTURBED BY REPORTS THAT ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE OF WHAT MIGHT BE LARGER OPERATION IS OVERTHROW OF MOBUTU. SOME REPORTS PRESAGE FORTHCOMING ACTIVITY IN THE NECK OF ZAIRE AND ELSEWHERE ALONG ITS NORTHERN AND EASTERN BORDERS. WE WOULD WELCOME ANY INFORMATION BELGIANS MAY HAVE AND WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT CREDENCE THEY GIVE TO THESE REPORTS. IN THE EVENT THAT THEIR INFORMATION APPEARS CREDIBLE, WHAT CONTINGENCIES DO THEY FORESEE, AND WHAT IDEAS DO THEY HAVE AS TO HOW BEST TO COPE WITH A BROADER EFFORT?

C) IN VIEW OF THE QUICKENING PACE OF DEVELOPMENTS, WE SUGGEST THAT WE MAINTAIN VERY CLOSE CONTACT ON A REGULAR BASIS TO EXCHANGE VIEWS AND INFORMATION THAT WILL BE HELPFUL TO OUR PLANNING. WE APPRECIATE THE CLOSE COORDINATION THAT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED BETWEEN OUR MILITARY MISSIONS IN KINSHASA.
VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: BORDER INCIDENTS, INVASIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation History:
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TAGS: PFOR, CG, AO
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